THE EXAMINER.

No. 224 SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 1812

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 218.

CITY PETITION AND RESOLUTIONS.

AFTER sickening the best part of the Court, the advisers of the PRINCE REGENT have now bent their policy upon disgusting the City; and it must be confessed, that in pursuing designs of this nature, their success is proportionate to their qualifications. Every body knows the strong and becoming jealousy which the Citizens have always felt at any evasion of their rights of Address on the part of the Throne; and nothing was wanting to complete an unpopularity already commenced under the most overwhelming auspices, but a refusal to give proper reception to their petitions. The consummation has now taken place; and the Citizens, in crowded Hall, amidst shouts of unanimity and indignation, have passed a strong set of Resolutions, expressive of their bitter sensations at having their privileges violated, of their conviction of the present overwrought and alarming state of things, and of their disgust at the "Odious Faction behind the Throne, which endangers the honour of the SOVEREIGN, and insults the feelings of the country." One of the Resolutions justly represents a violation of the Right of petitioning, as having been "among the outrages that led to the dethronement of the House of STUART, and to the constitutional establishment of the House of BRUNSWICK; others, with equal truth, remind us that if similar remonstrances of the City had not been disregarded in the course of the present reign, they might have prevented the humiliations, burdens, and disasters resulting from the American and Continental Wars; and another plainly declares, on all these accounts, that "the advisers of the answer of the REGENT, by which their Petition, as to all its useful purposes, has been rejected, have proved their enmity to the rights, privileges, and franchises of the City, their treachery to the honour and interest of the Crown, and their contempt of the public voice, as conveyed by the largest Corporate Assembly in the Empire." These Resolutions are followed in print by a copy of the evaded Petition, which is a forcible abstract of existing abuses. It has too much the air perhaps of recommending a particular set of men to the Ministerial Office; but there is a conscious deprecation of this construction in a succeeding paragraph; and it concludes with stating, that as his ROYAL HIGHNESS's declaration about his freedom from predilections was contradictory to his mode of proceeding, so nothing effectual can be done for the Nation, whether by predilections or otherwise, without a radical Reform in the Administration of Government, and the Representation of the People.

Remonstrances like these are answered at once by the Agents of Government with a charge of traitorous intention; for to such a pitch do these gentlemen carry their good opinion of the REGENT, that you cannot mention the most notorious facts in his public or private conduct, without being accused of a wish to disturb the peace. Others, whose habits of thinking are not quite so involved and interested in the defence of corruption, are yet shocked that the Citizens should carry their plain-speaking so far, simply because they themselves have not the courage to speak out. They object that there was no necessity to trace corruptions from their commencement,—to rake up all the sins of the present Reign in order to throw them in the teeth of the REGENT,—or to talk in such unqualified terms of what much wiser statesmen think proper to handle with more delicacy. In fine, the objectors on these occasions always conclude by the old set of jests upon Citizens and men in trade, such as—What should a linen-draper know of Reform—or, Why does he not keep to his counter—or, How much better would it be for the grocer to dip into his figjar than into politics,—with many other combinations of a like nature, of which the shops furnish so cheap a supply. It is very possible, that if such reasoners had been shopkeepers themselves, they would never have deviated into political thinking, at least into no such extravagance as thinking and speaking for themselves: they would have been finished tradesmen, no doubt,—good men, as the phrase is,—looking upon a feeling for the community as a joke, and doating upon a selfishness which is sure to be its own sullen avenger. But they make no distinction between use and abuse, between what is becoming in a Citizen as a highly interested member of the State, and what is unbecoming on the same account or ridiculous in him as a person of humble occupation. The former includes a proper knowledge and appreciation of what is going on in the world, and a public conduct accordingly; otherwise charters and body corporates are a farce, and a city, to all political purposes, must be no city:—the latter consists of becoming a dabbler and a chapman in state intrigues, in not taking proper care of the rights of his city, in aping the manners of the great, and procuring titles of nobility. A Lord who takes care of my cash account, or a Baronet who furnishes me with bacon, are objects ridiculous to the contemplation; but a Citizen who unaffectedly performs his duties at home, and at his leisure takes a manly interest in proceedings abroad, is a picture of what an English Citizen ought to be. As the substance he acquires in his private capacity enables him to resist temptation, so his watchfulness in his public one teaches him best how to procure it and make it respect-

able; and both together render him one of the very best defenders of public liberty, because he is just in the situation to feel all its benefits. The way then to refute the political remonstrances of such men, is to shew the falsity of their statements, not the humbleness of their condition; but this is a task beyond the strength of their opponents. Can it be denied that the Citizens remonstrated against the American war, which afterwards terminated so obnoxiously? Can it be denied, that they remonstrated against the bad prospects of a war with France, and subsequently against its length and its hopelessness? Above all, can it be denied that the Citizens of London have ever had a most important influence upon the general voice and even actions of the time? Resort to ridicule, and they may be found ignorant, unspirited, of no account, awkward soldiers, and worse politicians. Come to facts, and you will know them to have been intelligent, alive to freedom, of the utmost importance in government, excellent soldiers, and true, prophetical politicians. I speak generally, of course;—there are men of all sorts in city as well as country;—but generally speaking, such is the plain matter of fact according to history and universal acknowledgment; and therefore, on every account, there can be no worse policy in a government than to hurt the feelings of such a body of men, and no worse sign of the times than when the City is in direct and habitual opposition to the Court.

An evasion then of City Petitions is really the most impolitic, when it appears to uneasy courtiers the least so; and those who have advised the Regent to such a proceeding, have shewn the usual narrowness of sight which seems fated never to be aware of approaching evil: for if the occasion of address be an obnoxious one, the Sovereign, instead of trying to escape from it, will do much better by putting on that self-possessed graciousness and vouchsafing, at least, that vague sort of answer which political Princes so well understand; whereas, to refuse any notice whatsoever is a double piece of imprudence; it mortifies and offends the important body who address, and leaves us all to conclude that the person addressed has nothing to say for himself. The reader will not imagine I am panegyrizing the "better" policy abovementioned. It is only better in comparison with the very worst. The best of all, and the only substantially good one to all lasting purposes either of individual or national glory, is, that plain, strait-forward, and candid enlargement, which is always prepared both for action and explanation,—which is even best calculated to puzzle and confound those who act upon different principles,—and which the policy of the last fifty years has no more resembled than a dark lanthorn resembles the noon-day sun, or the madness of an alchemist the calm-eyed philosophy of a Newton.

Really one is sick and tired of these bad imitators of a bad politician. Mr. Perceval and his colleagues think they may do all that Mr. Pitt did with only as much danger to the country. Nothing has accelerated or grown worse, in their notion of things; the motion of evil has not become more precipitate; Government is not less respected; our burdens have not rendered us harder to be goaded; Bonaparte is not stronger, confidence is not more weak. What will open their eyes? Nothing. But by the next general election, we may have opened ours a little, and then it will be our own faults if we do not deliver both Prince and People from this impudent blindness, which has been pretending for thirty years to conduct us in the right road, and has only led us into wildernesses of plunder and ditches of blood.

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ERRATA IN THE ARTICLE OF LAST WEEK UPON THE LATE MR. HORNE TOOKE.

After the words, "I say a wrong spirit, not because I doubt his sincerity upon the great cause which he professed to advocate, but because I do doubt his sincerity or strait forward conduct," insert the words, "upon subordinate points affecting his means of assisting it."

For "clearing their own spheres from *destruction*" read "clearing their own spheres from *obstruction*."

For "*blessing* he had enjoyed," read "*blessings* he had enjoyed."

The last error is hardly worth the mention, and might have been left perhaps to the silent correction of the reader, as others have been before; but the Editor wishes his words to be as exact as possible when speaking of the characters of individuals.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

Brest, March 29.—Vice-Admiral Allemand, who on the 9th instant left L'Orient with four sail of the line and two corvettes, after taking several prizes, anchored in our roads on the 29th.

Paris, April 3.—To-day his Majesty presided at a Council of State, held at St. Cloud.—The last letters from Bayonne announced, that four magnificent Fusileer Regiments of the Imperial Guard had passed through that town, proceeding from Spain to Paris. Indeed, scarcely had we received this intelligence, when we saw these brave soldiers arrive; they spread themselves through the streets of the capital, and ran, after several years absence, to embrace their friends and relations, astonished at seeing them in Paris before they even knew of their departure from Spain. These movements are not the only ones being executed.—To-day we have received letters from Tailouse, Rochelle, and Toulon, stating that many regiments are seen passing through these towns on their route to Spain, among which is the 20th of the line, quite complete, and particularly remarkable for its fine appearance. The order and uniformity which prevail in these grand movements, excite less admiration than the prodigious and hitherto unknown rapidity with which these victorious legions are marched from one extremity of Europe to the other. Such operations prove, in a brilliant manner, the power of France, which, in the moment in which she has a formidable army upon the banks of the Vistula, sends more than sixty fresh battalions across the different issues of the Pyrennees, to reinforce her armies in Spain and Portugal. Never did the Roman Empire, at the epoch of its greatest power, move such immense

masses with such rapidity; and besides, the French eagle, in passing the Elbe and the Oder, is now displayed in regions into which the Roman eagles never penetrated.—On the 20th March there was publicly burnt in Square Napoleon, in Leghorn, about 200,000 francs worth of English goods.

SPAIN.

CADIZ, MARCH 20.—According to the Resolutions previously passed by the General Cortes of the Kingdom, all the deputies met yesterday at nine in the morning, in the Hall of the Congress, to swear to the constitution, and the public session being opened, one of the secretaries read the formula of the oath, couch in these terms—"I swear to guard the Political Constitution of the Spanish Monarchy, which the General and Extraordinary Cortes have decreed and sanctioned."—The deputies advanced two by two to the table of the President, who first took the oath, the others swearing after him, by placing their hands on the holy gospels, and saying—"Thus I swear."—This being done, the Secretary said, with a loud voice—"If thus you do, may God reward—if not, may he require it of you."—At half after ten in the morning, the Regency of the Kingdom arrived in their habits of ceremony, and being introduced into the hall with the appointed formalities, took their seats on the throne with the President of the Cortes. They afterwards came down to the table, the Lords Regents standing on the right of the President of the Cortes, and afterwards kneeling down and placing their hands on the holy gospels, a Secretary read the oath, provided by act 173 of the Constitution, and the Lords Regents solemnly swore to defend and preserve the Catholic Apostolic Roman Religion, and not to suffer any other in Spain; to keep and cause to be kept the constitution and laws of the monarchy; not to alienate, cede, or dismember any part of the kingdom; not to require any produce, money, or any other thing, unless decreed by the Cortes; to take from no one his property; to respect the political liberty of the nation, and the personal of each individual; to be faithful to the King; to observe the conditions imposed by the Cortes, and the exercise of the royal authority, and when it shall be possible, to deliver up to the King the government of the kingdom. This being done, the Lords Regents arose, and the Secretary said with a loud voice—"If this you do, may God reward, and if not, may he require it of you, and you shall be responsible to the nation according to the laws."—Afterwards, the Lords Regents returned to the throne with the President of the Cortes, who addressed them in an appropriate speech.—The presence of the august Congress, the depositary of the confidence of the Spanish nation, that of the Government charged with securing its independence, and preparing the future prosperity and splendour of Spain; the assemblage of so many persons illustrious for dignity and services, their love of country, their sacrifices in its behalf, their intelligence and virtue; the extraordinary concourse and exultation of the people; the decorations of the houses, the peals of bells, the firing of artillery, and the military music; the recollection of the remarkable events, which produced, and have brought to this point, our glorious revolution; the perspective of the labours, of the dangers, and finally, of the triumphs which await us; here, a magnanimous nation giving itself up to feelings of the purest patriotism; there, at a short distance, the enemy, who, from a corner of the bay, spent himself in malignant and puerile efforts to interrupt our tranquillity, and to disturb, if possible, the order traced by Providence for consolidating the independence of Spain: all these circumstances and considerations united, produced a sublime whole, a magnificent picture, which filled the mind, and can be more easily conceived than described.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN, MARCH 11.—*Calen Fowler* was tried on an indictment, charging, that he, on the 1st day of March last, of malice aforethought, murdered Thomas Fagan, by thrusting a hot poker into his mouth, whereby he gave him a mortal wound in the wind-pipe, of which he instantly died.—*Patrick Breen* said, he knew Thomas Fagan, who is dead—he was in a room with the deceased when Calen Fowler came in, advanced on Fagan, and said, "Fagan, are you there?"—He had in his hand a small forge poker, which was red hot—the deceased raised up his hands and exclaimed, "what are you about, Calen?"—and the prisoner immediately thrust the poker into his mouth—he then gave him a blow on the right side of his neck, and said, "I'll give you more of it." The deceased had nothing in his hand, and had just dined—the poker remained red hot after it was taken from his mouth—the deceased was in such torture, that he attempted to leap out of the window; but, being prevented by his sister, ran into the street, and died in a few minutes—He said the night before, at the door of the house where the deceased lived, that "he would be hanged for T. Fagan."—Q. You say, the deceased had been at dinner?—A. Yes. Q. Did the prisoner take up a knife?—A. He did not. Q. Can you account for this sudden frenzy, this madness?—A. Yes; he was offended because Fagan had set a grate badly for him.—*James Roche* said, the poker was used in the forge that day. He described the prisoner to be very outrageous, and attempted to force the elder Fagan's door,—that he came into the forge, took the poker, and got into the room, the door having been opened.—The Jury immediately brought in a verdict of—*Guilty*.—The RECORDER pronounced the usual sentence, that he should be hanged on Friday, and that his body should be dissected.

On Saturday morning last, between three and four o'clock the Newry fly coach was stopped by a strong band of robbers, who, without any intimation, fired into the coach, but without injuring any of the passengers. They proceeded to hand out those in the coach, one by one, and with the most dreadful imprecations, made them deliver up all they possessed. There were two ladies, Mrs. Hamilton and daughter, whom the robbers obliged to kneel down in the road, declaring they would shoot them instantly: one of the gang, however, interfered, and even declared he would not allow their baggage to be touched. However, the captain of the banditti ordered every thing to be carried off. Money, watches, trinkets, clothes, every particle was plundered. The Rev. Mr. Beresford was in the coach, and is said to have lost 200*l.*; another Gentleman lost 600*l.* and it is thought the villains carried off with them, altogether, more than 2000*l.* in cash and property.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

A dreadful pitched battle was fought at Cope Wood, near St. Ann's Hill, on Monday, betwixt a farmer, of the name of John Fogard, and William Harlington, a navigator, for five pounds each, of their own money, in consequence of a public-house quarrel. The combatants knocked each other about by tremendous blows, for one hour and twenty-five minutes, with alternate advantages; but at length Fogard hit his adversary a strong chance blow behind the ear, and he fell senseless, and *never rose again*. He was conveyed to the Chequers public-house, where he languished about three hours and died. A Coroner's Inquest have brought in their verdict of Manslaughter

against Fogard, the deceased having in a great measure provoked the combat.

Mr. Bowman, of Irthington, in Cumberland, lately attained his 107th year; he has, in consequence, lived in *four* reigns. He shaves himself with ease and expedition; can read the smallest print without the assistance of spectacles; has his hearing in perfection; sleeps soundly; never knew an hour's sickness; and, though no enemy to a "cheerful glass," never remembers, but twice, to have been intoxicated with liquor. He can contest the palm of labour with the most robust young men of the district, whether it be in the operations of mowing, hedging, threshing, &c.; during the winter he actually employed himself in daily breaking the ice with a spade, in order to water his cattle; and, that he might not be idle, *mucked* the byre in the interval.

ASSIZES.

CORNWALL.—The trial of *William Wyatt*, for the murder of Isaiah Falk Valentine, a Jew, at Fowey, on the 25th of November last, excited considerable interest. The following are the particulars which transpired on the trial. Wyatt, the prisoner, kept the Rose and Crown, at Fowey. Whilst the prisoner resided in Dock, he contracted an acquaintance with the deceased, and knew that he was in the habit of dealing in guineas. About the middle of November, the prisoner wrote to the deceased, at that time in Dock, desiring him to come to Fowey, as he had procured a quantity of *buttons* (guineas), for him. On receipt of this intelligence the deceased left Dock, and came to Fowey on the 19th of November. On his arrival, he went to Wyatt's house, where he was amused with expectations of being introduced to the person who had the guineas to dispose of, until the 25th. Late on the evening of that day, long before high water, the deceased and the prisoner were seen in company on part of the quay of Fowey, called the Broad-Slip; and shortly after a person heard some person call out, Mr. Wyatt! Mr. Wyatt! The deceased was never seen after, until his body was found in the water, near the above-named spot. It was proved, that, on quitting the quay, the prisoner took a circuitous route to his house; and the clothes which he wore at the time were afterwards found, and proved to have been in salt water. The notes which the deceased had in his possession at Fowey were found concealed in a dung-heap, on the prisoner's premises, near which he was seen immediately after the murder. These notes were sworn to by the person who had delivered them to the deceased. One five pound note of the North Cornwall Bank, found amongst them, was particularly sworn to by a person who had got five one pound notes in exchange for it from the Jew, at Wyatt's house, in Fowey.—*Mr. Austen*, the person represented as having the guineas to dispose of, proved that he never had any conversation whatever with Wyatt respecting selling of guineas. It was also proved that the prisoner had agreed to pay a sum of money the week on which the murder was committed, for the stock, &c. in the Rose and Crown, which he had lately taken at Fowey. The quay at the place where the body was found, is fourteen feet high, and the water had risen above four feet. Here the evidence closed; and the Judge (Sir ALAN CHAMBRE) proceeded to charge the Jury. He summed up the proofs, giving it as his opinion, that it was next to impossible to suppose the murder had been committed by any one but the prisoner.—The Jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of *Guilty*. During the trial, and until the moment the Jury were about to consider their verdict, the prisoner appeared perfectly unconcerned; but as soon as he saw the Jury turn round, he became violently agitated. Immediately after the verdict was returned, the Judge passed sentence, and ordered the prisoner to be hanged on the ensuing Monday. The prisoner fainted just as the Judge pronounced the fatal order for his execution, and was removed to the gaol with considerable difficulty.—Mr. EAST, the prisoner's Counsel, made an objection to the sentence being executed, on the ground, that the law imperatively demands that a person convicted of murder shall be executed within 48 hours of conviction, unless previously respited, or where Sunday intervenes, [illegible] pronounced sentence on *Thursday*, but mistook it for Friday. The prisoner was again brought up on Friday, and sentenced to be hanged on the Saturday, but was respited, and removed from Launceston to Bodmin gaol. On what ground the respite was granted, or whether the objection of the prisoner's Counsel is considered of sufficient weight to be reserved for the opinion of the Twelve Judges, we have not learned.

SURREY, APRIL 2.—*William Holt* was indicted for the wilful murder of Thomas Astill, (Lord Spencer's gamekeeper), on the 17th day of August last, at Wimbledon. This was the case of the gamekeeper, who was killed by a poacher in Lord Spencer's Park.—*Barnard Hill* stated, that the prisoner and he worked at the same job; on the morning in question he was in the fields, and saw a man in a red jacket (which was the colour the gamekeeper wore) following a man in a brown jacket; he had heard a gun fired previously; he did not attend much to them, and he lost sight of them at the turn of the Park paling. He heard of the transaction in the course of the day, and mentioned it to the prisoner, who did not at first say he was the person, but the next day he confessed he was the man, and said that the gamekeeper was following him; that he at first took away his gun; that he then asked the gamekeeper if he was satisfied, who replied not, and persisted in following him; that he attempted to draw his cutlass, upon which the prisoner said he took that away also, and upon his attempting to halloo for assistance, that he gave him a blow on the head with the handle, and two blows on the thighs, to prevent him following him.—The Learned Judge, on this statement, said, it was clear that the case only amounted to manslaughter, as it was in the heat of blood, and not by malice propense, which the law required to constitute murder.—The Jury found him *Guilty of Manslaughter*, and the Learned Judge immediately sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment, and a fine of 1s.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Until Friday, nothing of moment occurred in this House. On that day, the Reversionary Grants Suspension Bill was read a second time, which caused some debate.—Earl GROSVENOR moved an amendment to leave out "the 28th of Feb. 1814," (the term of the Suspension) and insert "28th Feb. 1840."—This amendment was opposed by the Earl of LAUDERDALE, who did not attach much importance to the measure, conceiving that the influence of the Crown in Parliament had of late been diminished, though it had increased out of doors.—The Earl of DARNLEY, on the contrary, thought the amendment highly necessary; and Earl GREY was of opinion, that very few persons would say that the influence of the Crown had not increased. He could mention three Reversions which amounted to no less than *sixty thousand pounds a-year*, which sinecures might have been corrected, had they not been granted in reversion. It was the duty, he said, of Parliament, to lighten the burthens of the People, in order that all hands and hearts might be united in the present awful crisis.—The Earl of LIVERPOOL denied that the influence of the Crown had at all increased of late: in fact, he said, it had very much diminished since the time of Walpole. He asserted, that *Politics and Party had no influence in the appointments to office. Merit was now only considered, and the good of the State.*—Lord HOLLAND supported the amendment, which was however of course negatived without a division, and the House adjourned till Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, April 7.

EAST INDIA COMPANY.

Mr. MILLS presented a Petition from the East India Company, praying a renewal of their Charter for the term of 20 years.

Lord A. HAMILTON called upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to explain a matter that appeared to him (Lord H.) to

call for explanation. It appeared from the Report of the Proceedings at the East India House last week, that the Minister had been understood to have pledged himself to four points—first, an exclusive trade to China: secondly, the supply of whatever monies might be wanted for the service of the Company, for two years: thirdly, the confining all Asiatic importations to the port of London: and lastly, the giving up to the Company the controul of the Army in India.

Mr. PERCEVAL could not think it was any disrespect to the House, his having endeavoured, as far as he could, to make himself master of the subject, to do which it was indispensibly necessary that he should enable himself to form an opinion of his own upon it, and to have a communication with the Company upon that opinion—satisfied that nothing that might pass between him and them could possibly fetter or restrain the deliberations of that House.

Mr. HOWORTH stated, that, from the documents published at the India House, it appeared that the subject of the renewal of the Company's Charter had been taken into consideration as far back as 1808; that the Chairman of the East India Company, in a Letter to the President of the Board of Controul, dated 13th January, 1809, had fully and explicitly stated the propositions on which he hoped to form the basis of that negociation; that at an interview which took place, in consequence of that Letter, upon the 27th February, 1809, the Chairman of the East India Company pressed upon the Board of Controul the necessity of coming to an early decision upon the subject. Mr. H. asked the Right Hon. Member (Mr. Wallace) whether any other proceedings not published had taken place, and if not, how it had happened that from the 27th February, 1809, to the 17th December, 1811, a period of two years and nearly ten months, this important business had been totally neglected?

The Petition was read and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. CREEVEY objected to the informality of the proceedings.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that the course would be, first, to refer the Petition to a Committee of the whole House, and then in that Committee to propose certain Resolutions respecting it. —Adjourned.

Wednesday, April 8.

Sir CHARLES MORGAN presented a Petition from the town of Birmingham, signed by 16,000 persons, complaining of the Monopoly of the East India Company, and praying relief.—The Petition was ordered to lie on the table.—Some other Petitions were presented of a similar import.

Mr. GRATTAN postponed his motion on the Catholic Claims till Thursday fortnight.

EXPORTATION OF IRISH SPIRITS, &c.

The House having gone into a Committee on this subject,

Mr. W. POLE proposed a Resolution for the purpose of suspending, for a time to be limited, the exportation of Spirits from Ireland to Foreign Markets, as the state of the harvest in Ireland has been such, as made it necessary to take some steps to counteract the apprehension of a scarcity. The method recommended might for a while affect the interests of the Irish Distillers, who by their industry and great exertions had established a most beneficial trade with Portugal and other countries, yet he hoped from their patriotism that they would acquiesce in it, in order to prevent the apprehension of scarcity in their own country. He should propose to continue the suspension until the 31st December, giving power, however, to the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, to take it off after the 1st of October, if they thought proper.

The Resolution was put and carried.

In a Committee of Ways and Means, Mr. POLE moved an additional duty of 2*s*. 6*d*. on Spirits distilled from Grain in Ireland, making the whole duty 5*s*. 10*d*. per gallon. He stated this proposed addition to be in perfect accordance with the recommendations contained in the Report of a Committee presented last Session, in which it was distinctly observed, that there was an excessive use of spirituous liquors in Ireland, and that this was principally to be ascribed to their low price. He confessed, however, that this was merely a measure of experiment.

The Resolution was agreed to, as well as several others.—Adjourned.

Thursday, April 9.

On the motion for the second reading of the Sea Water Baths Bill, a discussion took place, and the House then divided, and there appeared—For, 11—Against, 20—Majority, 18.—The Bill was of course thrown out.

EXPORTATION OF RICE.

Mr. LYTTLETON wished to ask the Right Hon. Gentlemen opposite, if they knew that several ships were now in the river with cargoes of rice, for the purpose of being exported under licenses to France? In the present scarcity of grain it was necessary that some reason should be assigned for the granting such licenses.

After some time, during which no answer was given to the question,

Mr. WHITBREAD observed, that it was necessary that some answer should be given.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that as to the fact of ships laden with rice being in the river, he could give no answer: but with respect to the licenses, they were granted for the exportation of several articles, in which rice was included.

Mr. WHITBREAD doubted of the propriety of exporting grain to France in the general state of things. In sanctioning this, the Right Hon. Gentleman seemed to forget the situation in which we stood with regard to America.

Mr. PERCEVAL said that he did not forget it.

Mr. LYTTLETON repeated his question respecting the granting of licenses.

Mr. PERCEVAL restated his answer, and observed, that of late the article rice was omitted in the licenses.

BOARD OF CONTROL.

Mr. CREEVEY stated, that originally the duties of this Board were discharged by persons who possessed licences, and who therefore did not receive any salaries from the Public for their labours in the Government of India. The sum of 22,000*l*. had since been given to them, and the object of this motion was to know what portion of that sum was received by Lord Melville, and how much was intended for the Earl of Buckinghamshire. Lord Melville already possessed *sinecures* in Scotland to the amount of 5,200*l*. a year, and the Earl of Buckinghamshire held a *sinecure* in Ireland of 11,000*l*. a year. He concluded by moving, "That there be laid before the House Copies of all Warrants under the Sign Manual, directing the amount of the Salaries of Lord Melville, the late President of the Board of Control, and of the Earl of Buckinghamshire, the present President."

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that when the Act passed which gave the salary to Lord Melville, as President of the Board of Control, Parliament knew that he possessed the sinecures to which the Hon. Gentleman had alluded. With respect to his sinecure in Scotland, he had renounced the salary of Privy Seal; and as to the Earl of Buckinghamshire, he had given up to the East India Company his salary as Governor of Madras.—He had no objection to the motion.—Adjourned.

Friday, April 10.

SCARCITY OF GRAIN.

Mr. CURWEN observed that an alarming advance had taken place in the price of grain, and in various places disturbances had arisen in consequence, in which some lives had already been lost.—He had before intreated, and he again now most earnestly called the attention of the Government to this subject. What he most dreaded was, that the price of grain should rise so high as to press severely on the lower classes, who ought to be shielded from such a calamity. Twenty weeks would elapse before there could be a supply of new grain, and he thought that a measure might be adopted which would save the consumption of three out of those twenty weeks: taking the consumption at 200,000 quarters a week, by his plan a saving would arise of 600,000 quarters. It was the renewal of the 41st of Geo. III. which provided that flour should be made only of one quality, instead of three, for the less by grinding three qualities of flour was not less than nine pounds a bushel.

By taking out a less portion of bran, a flour perfectly nutritive would be obtained, and five pounds saved in every Winchester bushel. Flour of this sort, too, would not be applied to purposes of luxury, which would cause the saving of another week's consumption.—He had done his duty in calling the attention of the House to this important subject, and he hoped that measures would be speedily taken, in order that fatal consequences might be prevented.

Mr. PERCEVAL said, that he had proposed a measure to the House (respecting the Distillers) which had been rejected; so that no charge of supineness could be brought against the Government. He was rather adverse to the proposed plan, as Parliamentary regulations on such subjects generally increased the evil, and the very Act alluded to had scarcely been passed, when it was repealed as injurious. He gave the Hon. Gentleman credit for the best motives; but the agitation of such topics tended in general rather to augment than decrease the mischiefs.

Mr. CURWEN said, that he had just received letters from Cumberland, stating that corn had risen 30s. a quarter in that county. He should on Monday move that an inquiry be made into the state and price of grain.

GOLD COIN BILL.

After some opposition, the House went into a Committee on this Bill, when its duration was limitted to two months after the next Session of Parliament. Report on Monday, to which day the House adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, April 7th.

Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Pellew has transmitted to John Wilson Croker, Esq. a letter from Captain West, of his Majesty's ship the Sultan, giving an account of the boats of that ship having, on the 4th of December last, under the direction of Lieutenants Anderson and Woodcock, boarded and captured, off Bastia, two French national armed vessels, one a settee of eight guns and 31 men, and the other a brig of six guns and 58 men. In the performance of this service, which is reported to have been very gallantly executed, the Sultan's boats had only four men wounded; the enemy had one killed and several wounded, amongst the latter the Commander of the brig.

BANKRUPCY ENLARGED.

S. J. Bargerbur, and Co. Burr-street, East Smithfield, ship-owners, from March 11, to May 30.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Shaw, Liverpool, Sadler.
W. Hamilton, Newport, Monmouthshire, coal-merchant.
— Bower, Manchester, furrier.
T. Bowmes, Rickergate, Carlisle, Cumberland, dry-salter.
R. Philipps, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, butcher.
M. C. Mortellari, Charles-street, Grosvenor-square, dealer.
T. Moore, Worthing, builder.
J. M'Donald, Woolwich, builder.
S. Wordsworth, Barnsley, Yorkshire, cordwainer.
H. Atkins, Pope's Head-alley, Russia broker.
C. Cox, Clifton, Gloucestershire, perfumer.
N. Nowell and W. Wakelin, Piccadilly, men's-mercers.
W. Footner, Hercules-buildings, Lambeth, underwriter.
R. Richards, late a prisoner in the Fleet, cook.
J. Davis, Marston-Moretain, Bedfordshire, butcher.
D. Lacour, Brewer-street, Golden-square, goldsmith.
J. J. Poidevin, Mortimer-street, Cavendish-square, tailor.
W. Simpson, Sidney's-alley, Leicester-square, tailor.
P. Maxwell, Featherstone-buildings, Holborn, merchant.
T. Smith, New Bridge-street, Vauxhall, baker.
B. Walmesley, Surrey-place, Kent-road, merchant.
H. G. Hilliers, New London-street, merchant.
R. James, New London-street, merchant.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

This Gazette contains the Appointment of Lord Sidmouth as President of the Privy Council; and an account of the capture of the Petit Jean French lugger privateer, of 16 guns and 60 men, (but having only 8 guns and 48 men on board) by the Persian sloop, Capt. Bertram.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Kent, Leddington, Wilts, farmer.
J. J. Smith, Cannon-street, London, wine-merchant.
J. Pycroft and R. Jackson, Wapping, ship-chandlers.
N. Jacob, Great Mary-le-bone-street, glass-cutter.
J. Morball, Castle-street, London, hardwareman.
J. Fisher, Liverpool, shoe-maker.
W. Flinders, Boston, Lincoln, ironmonger.
G. D'Arville, Oxford, timber-merchant.
S. Buggins, Birmingham, pencil-case-manufacturer.
M. France, Mirfield, York, vintner.
M. Blackford, Wantage, Berks, cordwainer.
T. Richards, Mediterranean Coffee-house, Cornhill, merchant.
T. A. Mann, Plymouth, linen-draper.
C. Waite, Aldersgate-street, London, haberdasher.
H. Lawson, Welbeck-street, Middlesex, silk-mercer.
J. Powel, London-road, St. George's-fields, haberdasher.
G. Simpson, Lloyd's Coffee-house, insurance-broker.
R. Taylor, Delanay-place, St. Pancras, carpenter.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cent. Cons. . . . . 59⅛—Consols for Acc. . . . 59⅞

An OLD FREEHOLDER of MIDDLESEX, next week.

The Manuscript on DRAMATIC EMANCIPATION shall be inserted at different successive times, as it is too long to appear at once.

Various Communications are postponed.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, APRIL 12.

FOREIGN intelligence is still of a very vague and contradictory nature. Our Editors now begin to confess, that no hope remains of Prussian hostilities with France; but they are still puzzled to know what is the precise object of the military appearances towards the North, and hope that they can only portend war between France and Russia. One would imagine that the grudge which they cannot help owing to the latter on account of her desertion of us, has provoked them to wish her another of those severe chastisements which BONAPARTE is in the habit of bestowing on the legitimate potentates. The Emperor himself however still remains at Paris; and is to do so, it appears, till the close of the present month; when he will shake off his domestic luxuries, and once more appear in the bustle,—for what exact object or in what quarter, is not ascertained. The general opinion talks of interviews with the Austrian Emperor, preparatory to a combination against Russia; but the same reasoning which is so quick to pre-suppose combinations of this kind, might suggest to itself that their very probability is an argument against their necessity, and that ALEXANDER, who could not fight BONAPARTE alone, will feel much less inclined, if he has an atom of sense remaining, to fight him and

Francis together,—not to mention the King of Prussia to boot, and all the Vassals of the Rhine. Spain, to be sure, is a great thorn in the Conqueror's side:—it has proved to him and to the world, the vast difference between the resistance of corruption, however imposing, and that of reformations however partial and obstructed; but the strength of Spain, polluted from the beginning of its contest by the seeds of disease which the old Court left behind it, is clearly diminishing, however slowly. Joseph is still in the heart of the usurped country; the sphere of his safety daily extends its circle around him; and Napoleon might easily leave his Generals to carry on the slow work of destruction towards the coast, while he set the Northern powers by the ears in such a manner as to make the least junction on his part with his vassals decide the contest in his favour. It would still seem, therefore, that if he has any serious designs of action on his part, they are directed rather against those who delay his entire subjugation of the Peninsula, than against Monarchs who are not interfering with him. He has boasted of the speedy reduction of that quarter often enough to make his very slaves entertain suspicions derogatory to his "glory;" and an apprehension of this nature, together with the actual loss of reputation, which his Generals incur by their tardy successes, would be sufficient with his impatient and fiery temper to make him disregard all those distant prospects of gradually wasting our strength, which some of our politicians suppose him to have had in view from the beginning.

To take up the latter subject, and look at home,—it may fairly be pronounced, that our vital and final strength to resist invasion no more depends upon this or that quota of regular troops, than Bonaparte's strength to invade us does upon loss of reputation. Our strength, both for that purpose and all other purposes of existence, must arise from virtue in ourselves and confidence in our rulers; and though numbers no doubt would exercise the virtue who have not the confidence,—nay, although the very persons would exercise most of the one who have least of the other,—yet there must always be an alarming number, who without the latter would render resistance comparatively frigid and ineffectual. What then must we do to preserve it? "Why," say the Courtiers, "you must not speak a word in disparagement of your Rulers, otherwise you bring them into contempt and make way for the enemy:"—"No," say the true Englishmen;—"begin at the beginning, if you please, when you give your advice; and admonish the Rulers not to bring themselves into contempt, in the first instance. If to mention the folly and profligacy of those upon whose conduct perhaps our very existence depends, be no longer allowable to a free people, who in comparison with them are as millions to one, then are the comforts and common safety of millions made of less importance than the vices of that one; and is this a state in which silence is to ensure safety? Not it. We must speak out, even if we have no other hope than to hinder the contagion of example, and to preserve that spirit among ourselves, which in keeping us from a silent acquiescence in the corruptions of one Government, affords us the only chance of being able to survive the ambition of another. The silence of a people respecting the vices of their Rulers, is in itself a destroyer of that very confidence, which servile and weak-minded men would attempt to maintain by it; and to speak otherwise of such Rulers than they deserve is at once to announce ourselves worthy to be free no longer, and fit to be governed by any body. But not to use plain, honest language, in matters that concern a nation's existence, has never been found to be of any lasting service; and virtue will never be secure, vice will never be stopped in its pernicious career, till the only restraint upon public speaking consists in the decencies and morality of society, and notorious, undeniable truth is declared to be no longer a libel. Here are the disturbances, for instance, at Manchester, Carlisle, &c. These are part of the effects of improvident government; and what good has been done by concealing them hitherto? If it were the custom to discuss such proceedings the moment they appear, Government would be more cautious in giving them occasion, and the misfortunes themselves would have a speedier and more temperate consideration; but the thing is hushed up as well as it can be, and so is a bad character; the evil of it proceeds in the mean time silently and surely; and at last, if a quick and difficult remedy be not applied, a thunder suddenly bursts upon us, which, by the freedom of the public voice in the first instance, might have been dispersed before it gathered.

The disturbances above-mentioned, of which the reader will find an account in another part of the Paper, appear to have arisen from a sottish proceeding on the part of 154 of the inhabitants of Manchester, who wanted, about a fortnight back, to have a public meeting, in order to prepare an address of "attachment" and "ardent zeal" to the Prince Regent. The requisition for this purpose produced an alarming sensation in the district; and the people collected together in such numbers, and proceeded to exhibit such symptoms of violence, that the project was abandoned, and the military subsequently called in to disperse the crowds. The firm and at the same time considerate behaviour of the soldiers had its proper effect, and the town was completely quieted; but the state of mind in this quarter and in others also, where similar appearances of discontent have taken place, cannot be very composed or promising. Violences of this nature, however, are always to be deprecated as much by the opposer as by the friend of abuses. A mob let loose always was, and always will be, a wild beast; and though the abuses of Government are great and the pressures and signs of the times truly alarming, yet there are many quiet remedies, thank God, which it is still our interest as well as duty to try, and which may yet happily succeed, if the two great bodies of people unite as they ought, without approximating to revolution in any shape, much less to the blind and barbarous horrors of popular insurrection.

The *Courier* of last night contains the following article, in a second edition:—

"We have just received the following letter from Carlsham, March 22:—

"We have the Russian Declaration of Hostilities of the 19th ult. and a letter of the 13th, dated Koningsberg, which says, that France brings into the field 135,000 Frenchmen. There are besides 300,000 Austrians, Prussians, and Saxons. Bonaparte and the King of Prussia are expected at Koningsberg, at the head of the left wing of the army, 100,000 strong. Massena commands the Prussian army. The Prussian Court is gone to Breslau. Silesia is declared neutral. The French occupy Colberg, Pillau, and Memel."

FINANCE.—Mr. PERCEVAL stated in the House on Friday, that "in the year ending the 5th April, 1812, the Excise had produced 17,900,000*l.* while last year the same branch of revenue was only 17,300,000*l.* This increase of 600,000*l.* might in part arise from some small *additional taxation* last year; but he believed he was justsfied in stating, that some hundred thousand pounds of it arose from an increased consumption of exciseable articles. It was true, the branch of Customs had suffered considerably; but he was now enabled to state, that the general produce of the taxes for the year ending the 5th of April, 1812, amounted to 61,333,000*l.* The revenue amounted to 62 millions and odd on the 5th of April, 1811, and the defalcation this year would not exceed between 8 and 900,000*l.* which, considering the falling off in the Customs, afforded by no means an unsatisfactory view of the finances of the country. This information he had thought it right to communicate, as calculated to afford *considerable satisfaction* to the House." This, it is to be recollected, is the Minister's statement; but taking it as a correct one, how stand our prospects?—The revenue has decreased nearly *one million* last year, and our expenditure has increased *many millions*. How must this end?—With means annually decreasing, and expences annually enlarging, the Minister tells the House that the financial condition of the country is to be viewed with "considerable satisfaction!" What would a private gentlemen or tradesmen think, if his affairs were in such a state? Would he not immediately conclude, that he must either retrench or become bankrupt? And in arithmetical calculations, can there be any difference between a private and a public expenditure? The catastrophe is plain to all unbiassed men; but when a Minister's brother gets 30,000*l.* a-year by the system, which sum the Minister himself is to enjoy after him, a golden mist obscures the vision, and it is not in human nature to see justly through the delusive medium.—When Ministers and their friends obtain *nothing* by a continuance of the present system, then, and not till then, will they be deemed honest judges of its merits.—As it is, they roll in riches, while the people want the decent comforts of life, who are also insulted by being told that the state of the finances is "calculated to afford considerable satisfaction;" and this too at a time, when a want of employment and even of bread are driving the wretched manufacturers to the most lamentable acts of violence!

A Bill of the most extraordinary nature has been brought forward in the House of Representatives in America, for the purpose, as it is termed, of protecting American seamen. It has been read a first and second time, and committed. The principal provisions are, that if any foreigner shall be guilty of impressing any American citizen on board of a foreign ship or vessel, if he shall be arrested, he shall be tried and convicted as a pirate, and suffer death; and the American so impressed, on his return to his country, shall be entitled to 30 dollars a month during the time of his detention, and may recover it by a suit of foreign attachment against the debtor of any British creditor; and what he shall recover, and the costs, shall be so much payment of the debt. If this Bill should pass into a law, it will effectually put an end to all intercourse between the two countries.—*Sun.*

"This day Lord SIDMOUTH is to take his seat at the Council Board, as President. He comes in, after a long and hard bargain, which he has driven with all the craft of a trading politician. He has a list of *seventeen* persons, who call themselves of his squad, while he is in office, though several of them act with every Minister in turn. For this reason, Earl CAMDEN has been made to yield the President's chair to his Lordship. The noble Lord, however, is to retain his seat in the Cabinet—for *his wisdom* is considered to be essential to the PRINCE REGENT's Councils!"—*Morning Chronicle, April* 8.

"There was a mistake in our paper yesterday which it is of importance to correct. We ought to have said that "the Act of Separation between the Illustrious Personages in question received the signature of the KING himself, and of the *present* Ministers, not the *late* Ministers."—*Courier, April* 7.

Mr. Sheriff WOOD did not bring forward his Address respecting the Princess of WALES at the last City Meeting, as due notice had not been given.

A Dublin Ministerial paper, in an article dated from London, March 30, says, "The PRINCE REGENT has declared his intention of going to the Peninsula, and joining in the campaign against the French invaders."—The Editor, upon this glorious and inspiring intelligence from his Correspondent, makes the following judicious remarks:—"We give the above as we have received it; and must say for ourselves that we are far from discrediting such a report.—The event of the *appearance* of his Royal Highness the Regent of Great Britain upon the Peninsula, stimulating his subjects in arms, conjoined with the patriot bands of Spain and Portugal, would serve as an *electric shock* to the Usurper, and cause *a flame to burn* throughout invaded Europe, that could never again be extinguished, but would *brighten* in the overthrow of the disturber of the peace of nations, and shed a long, happy, and peaceful lustre over those countries which his ambition had laid waste and desolate, in his execrable career of aggrandizement and usurpation."—If such great effects are to be produced by the "appearance" only in the field of the PRINCE REGENT, what might not be expected should *all* the Royal Brothers join the patriot bands of the Peninsula? With the PRINCE at their head, followed by the heroes of the Helder and of Hanover, the allied armies would certainly "march to Paris" at last.—But the Dublin Editor, it is to be feared, has forgotten that the Heir Apparent of these happy realms cannot constitutionally quit the country. To be sure, an Act of Parliament might be procured for such a purpose; and it really would be a most refreshing sight, to see *all* these Royal Personages quitting the Country for the good of the State.

At the Old Bailey, yesterday, *Jos. Thompson*, alias *Jos. Woolman*, (who was acquitted of an indictment for forgery on Wednesday, in consequence of an omission of the letter *s*) was found guilty of feloniously forging the acceptance of a Mr. Dougall, to a bill of exchange for 118l. 18s. 4d. and thereby defrauding Messrs. Carter and Strong.

The frequenters of Ibbetson's, Stevens', the Prince of Wales's, and the York Coffee-houses, were on Monday much astonished at a tremendous Military Notice stuck up by Lieut. Aikin, respecting a Dragoon Officer.—It was short but pithy, ending with the significant terms, "Scoundrel and Coward."

Mr. Professor Davy was knighted by the Regent at the Levee on Thursday, as was Mr. Toller.

A Correspondent wishes to suggest the idea, that, during the very high price of flour, every master of a family, instead of finding his servants with the article of bread, should allow them a stipulated sum of money per week to provide themselves. This plan, our Correspondent observes, so simple in itself, would not only tend to lessen the consumption in respect to what is absolutely eaten, but to diminish most considerably the abominable and disgraceful waste that is made of that article by servants in general, in almost every respectable family in the kingdom.

In speaking of certain Public Defaulters last week, the name of Woodford was mentioned with Villiers and others. It is proper to observe, that the allusion was made to Mr. *Emperor* Woodford, who absconded, about two years since, to South America.

The infamous Caricaturist, Dubost, is about voluntarily to follow Baron Geramb out of England. His departure is however impeded by the detention of his property at the Custom-house, in consequence of a well concealed false bottom having been discovered under a trunk, which besides clothes, contained Paintings and various Sketches.—Among them was a duplicate of *Beauty and Beast*. He has had the impudence to petition the Custom-house Commissioners for the restoration of his property, on the ground that the Custom-house Officer has been influenced to the search and detention of his property by the unjust interference of the brother of a respectable character, and well-known Patron of the Arts, whom he traduced in the abovementioned Caricature.

TO THE AUGUSTUS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

"Hic ames dici *Pater*, atque *Princeps*."
Hor. Carm. L. 1. Od. 2.

Great Names are thine, in spite of Defamation,
So prithee don't be vext:—
Thou'rt "*Princeps*" of the present Generation,
And "*Pater*" of the next!

Ω

ALARMING RIOTS.

A number of Gentlemen of Manchester last week, signed the following Requisition to the Boroughreeve and High Constables:—

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed, request you will convene a public meeting of the town of Manchester, Salford, and the neighbourhood, to prepare a dutiful address to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, expressive of the strongest assurances of our attachment to his Royal Person, and of our ardent zeal for the support of his Government."

The Boroughreeve accordingly appointed a Meeting for that purpose on Wednesday last, when the apprehensions and fears which many people entertained respecting the assemblage of the populace were realized. It seems the Proprietors of the Exchange Building prudently declined lending their room for the intended purpose of meeting this day. The Requisitionists applied for a room at the Bull's Head, but there they were disappointed. By ten o'clock a great concourse of people were assembled, till the central part of the town was quite occupied with people, chiefly weavers from the country round. As soon as a sufficient number of them were assembled, they forced their way into the Exchange Room, and turned out all the Gentlemen who were present, and soon proceeded to acts of violence, destroying all the papers, maps, and books they could meet with; they also broke the chairs, tables, windows, and every thing valuable, not only in that room, but in the room where the Gentlemen were to have met, and it is said, they would have set fire to that beautiful building, had not the military arrived very opportunely to dislodge them. The soldiers took possession of the building, but crowds of people still remained.

The following most inflammatory *Posting Bill* was put up all over the Town, which served to irritate the people to the highest degree, as they saw that the meeting was intended to revive the spirit of intolerance:—

"ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY MAN TO DO HIS DUTY!!!

"Should you not this day give your support to the Prince Regent, you may, in a very short time, expect a revival of the days of Bloody Queen Mary, when your ancestors were tied to a stake, and burnt alive. The active opposers of the present Government have pledged themselves to sanction the Popish Religion, and as Bonaparte is the head of that Religion, your universal cry should be

"NO POPE BONAPARTE.

There also appeared the following Bill:—

"TO THE INHABITANTS OF MANCHESTER AND SALFORD.

"Fellow Townsmen,—A Public Meeting is convened for the purpose of expressing the strongest assurances of attachment to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and the most ardent zeal in support of his Government. This is a measure of Party, and introduced at a time when you are suffering under distress and wretchedness unexampled in its extent and pressure, and anticipating its incalculable increase; when every rank of society, from the highest order in the State to the meanest of the labouring poor, is viewing with agony the impending and complicated dangers which threaten our very existence as an independent Nation. Of the motives of those with whom the meeting originated, it is unnecessary to speak; but I address you from the solemn conviction, that by the success of the contemplated measure, not only your worldly interests, but your moral and intellectual character, would be laid prostrate—would be delivered, bound for sacrifice into the hands of the Minister, and be immolated by him at the foot of the Throne—that the smoke of the offering might thicken the vapours of delusion, which, fatally for you, already surround it. This, however, will not be. I have no such melancholy anticipation. I look forward to the defeat of the attempt with confidence. My hopes in this are strong, for the object of them is good. You feel the dishonour prepared for you, and will impressively condemn the sophistry and cant with which it may be recommended. Fellow Townsmen!—With a national character of wisdom and magnanimity; with a form of Government calculated for comfort, protection, and happiness; with numbers of public men of undoubted talents and virtue; and with many and great resources, you behold your country sunk in reputation, degraded

in rank, and pursuing those measures which will inevitably terminate in irremediable destruction and misery. The public mind is no longer ignorant of the cause. The canker-worm of state, in piercing our feelings with agony, has at once roused us from a general and unaccountable indifference, and fortunately too, opened a passage for the light. Darkness is now removed from the face of the deep. The rays which shot through the perforations of corruption, have dissipated the clouds that obscured it. We now discern the dangers that surround us, and the misconduct that has produced them. We feel the necessity of concentrating our energies to repel the one, and protest against the other. The love and reverence we bear our country, and its laws, demand, on this occasion, a display of that unconquerable perseverance, which an exalted sense of duty inspires and animates. My Fellow Townsmen, if you are sensible of this duty, you will attend the Meeting on the 8th of April, and convert the Resolutions that will be submitted to you into a Constitutional call upon the Government, to concede to the general wish and interests of the country, by renouncing those fatal principles that have been so pregnant with calamity. I have confidence in your wisdom, honour, and firmness; and trust that your conduct, calmly co-operating with the regenerating sense and spirit of the people, will restore this afflicted nation to its natural soundness and vigour.

"A WARNING VOICE."

"*Manchester, 2d April*, 1812."

Letters from Manchester, yesterday morning, state that no fresh disturbance has broken out. Every thing remained tranquil, and was likely to remain so at the departure of the post on Thursday night. The disturbance was not of long continuance nor of serious import.

A tumult has also taken place at Carlisle, where the people wished to unload some vessels that were taking in corn and potatoes to be carried coastways. This was prevented by the seasonable interference of the Magistrates; but in the afternoon the multitude were exasperated by some of the military officers drawing their swords. They assembled round the mess-room and broke the windows, when the Riot Act was read, and the soldiers fired. One poor woman, far advanced in pregnancy, and several persons, were wounded.

In addition to the disturbances at Carlisle and Manchester, there are unpleasant accounts from the West. The Miners in Cornwall not having sufficient employment, collected in the neighbourhood of Truro to the number of one thousand, but by the proper conduct of the Civil Power, supported by the Gentry, the disposition to tumult was followed by no mischievous consequences.

FINE ARTS.

The President of the Royal Academy, with the Keeper, presented a Petition to the Regent on Thursday, on Academy Matters.

Mr. West's Picture of *Christ in the Temple* has returned to the British Institution.

Mr. Wilkie is about to exhibit in Pall Mall all the Pictures he has painted. Those which have not been already criticised in the *Examiner*, (of which there are several) will be duly noticed.—The Picture lately painted for Mr. Angerstein, and the one now finishing for the Prince Regent, are said to be among the inimitable Works intended for Exhibition. These subjects are *St. Monday*, and *Blindman's Buff*, the former of which is on a comparatively large scale.

ENGRAVINGS AND ETCHINGS.

While the works of Woollet are daily increasing in value on account of their extraordinary excellence, it is satisfactory to find that England still boasts the possession of talent in landscape engraving, equal to that master in the sculptural art. As a proof of this, I have formerly noticed the large Sporting Prints by Mr. J. Scott, and now again appeal to an exquisite production by the same versatile hand from a picture by Gainsborough in Sir J. Leicester's Collection of Modern Masters, representing Cottage Scenery. The various objects are all discriminated with the same truth that is found in his inimitable engravings of animals, and their general texture is a just medium between the coarse and the fine, a medium which even Woollet did not always preserve. The brilliant lights, the delicate half-tinted gradations, and forcible shadows, display the plenitude of effect conspicuous in Gainsborough's paintings. The main light exhibits a highly pleasing group of children and their mother, the engraving of which is worthy of any hand, however accomplished, for the delicate character of the flesh, the softness of its gradations, the simple and tasteful direction of the lines, and the correctness of the drawing. Mr. Scott, to adopt in part an elegant thought of an able professor of and writer on art, ranks among the foremost of "engravers, who are the historians of the painter's fame."

Mr. Scriven's Print of *the Duke of Argyle in Prison* does every possible justice to the vigorous picture of Mr. Northcote, as does his print of *the Prince Regent*, after Hoppner. The various textures of objects are well characterized, and there is an uncommon sharpness in the parts which require it. Mr. Scriven has been duly attentive to the touches, tones, and drawing of the paintings.

The fourth, as well as the preceding numbers of Mr. Moses's *Collection of Antique Altars, Vases, Pateras, Candelabra, Tripods, &c.* is executed with that accuracy of form and tastefulness of marking, which connoisseurs have so much admired in his two numbers of *West's Gallery*. They will not only amuse the amateur, but will be of much practical utility to the artist.

It has perhaps never been found that juvenile productions in the Fine Arts confer considerable or lasting celebrity, though they are sometimes pledges of that after fame which is elicited by long industry and experience. A beautiful etching, however, by J. C. Bromley, jun. only in the 16th year of his age, almost proves an exception to this remark, for its merit is sufficiently prominent to rank it among the best, and to obtain for the engraver nearly if not the entire portion of praise that is attached to this first process of his charming art. The forms are marked with such spirit and richness, the touches are so vigorous, the lines are so free and tastefully directed, the drawing is copied with such energy and exactness, the breadth and even many of the gradations of light and shade are so judicious, the character so vigorous, and, in fine, there is so masterly a style, that we scarcely wish for the refinement, mellowness, and harmony, that will result from finishing. The boldness of the style is peculiarly adapted to the subject, which represents *Eneas carrying his Father from Troy*, and is from an animated work of F. Barocci. R. H.

CITY.—COMMON HALL.

The Livery of London again met on Tuesday, to consider the Answer of the Prince Regent respecting the re-

ception of their Petition.—The Report of the Sheriffs was read, which stated, that his Royal Highness would receive the Petition at the Levee, but not on the Throne; that the Petition would not be read at such Levee, but that in addition to the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and City Officers, ten of the Livery, in their gowns, may attend to present the Petition.

Mr. WAITHMAN, in a moderate and manly speech, proposed various Resolutions, which are given below.—They were seconded by Mr. FAVELL, with his usual good sense; and though opposed by Sir J. SHAWE and a Mr. DUNKIN, who seemed much irritated, they were carried almost unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, 1. That it appears, from immemorial usage, to have been the undisputed right of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of London, in Common Hall assembled, to present and read their Petitions and Remonstrances to their Sovereigns upon the Throne, and to receive Answers to the same at the time of presentation.

2. That the right of Petitioning was asserted at the Revolution, and claimed, demanded, and insisted upon in the Bill of Rights, and is also secured by that clause of the Coronation Oath which pledges the Monarch to govern according to the ancient laws and customs of the realm; a violation of which, in regard to the right of Petitioning, together with the seizure of the City's Charter, being among the outrages that led to the dethronement of the House of Stuart, and to the constitutional establishment of the House of Brunswick.

3. That when Petitions are presented and read to the King upon the Throne, the Petitioners have the satisfaction of knowing that their complaints are heard; but when they are presented at the Levee, they are immediately delivered to the Lord in Waiting, and no answer given, nor have the Petitioners any assurance that their Petition is ever read, or its prayer known to the Sovereign.

4. That this right, so essential to the good understanding which ought to subsist in a limitted Monarchy between a constitutional King and a free People, was never called in question till the Livery of London, in the year 1775, prepared a Remonstrance against the impolitic system at that time pursuing against their fellow subjects in America, which Remonstrance, by counteracting the misrepresentations of wicked Ministers, might have prevented all the evils of the American War, had its arguments been allowed to reach the Royal Ear.

5. That, in like manner, this right was denied shortly after the commencement of the present ruinous, and, apparently, interminable war, when the Livery of London, feeling and foreseeing its calamitous consequences, sought to rescue their Sovereign and their country from the influence of those pernicious Councils which, for 20 years past, have filled the world with misery, and threaten to destroy the energies and resources of a great, brave, and loyal People.

6. That the right of approaching the Throne with our representations and remonstrances, is not less important in the present alarming and complicated situation of the Empire, when, in addition to unparelleled difficulties and dangers, the Public Councils are destitute of character, and when an odious faction behind the Throne endangers the honour of the Sovereign, and insults the feeling of the country.

7. That at such a crisis, the obstruction that has been given to the effective presentation of our dutiful Petition and Remonstrance is an aggravation of the public sufferings, and an inauspicious omen of the impending destiny of the Country, and could have been advised only by Ministers who are fearful of the effect of truth on the mind of their Sovereign, and who calculate on maintaining their power by keeping him in ignorance of the complaints and real condition of his subjects.

8. That the only reason assigned for not receiving our Petitions according to ancient usage, was contained in a Letter from Lord Hertford to John Wilkes, Esq. then Lord Mayor, wherein it is stated the King has directed him to give notice, that for the future his Majesty will not receive on the throne any Address, Remonstrance, and Petition, except from the Body Corporate; but it nevertheless does appear that two Addresses from the Court of Lieutenancy of this City have since been received by his Majesty on the Throne—one on the 16th of December, 1795, and the other on the 30th day of May, 1800—although the said Court of Lieutenancy does not constitute the Body Corporate of this City, while in October following a Petition was refused from the Livery, in whom are vested the more important rights of electing the Chief Magistrate, the Sheriffs, the Representatives in Parliament, the Chamberlain, the Auditors of the City Revenue, and other officers.

9. The advisers of the Answer of the Regent, by which our Petition, as to all its useful purposes, has been rejected, have proved their enmity to the rights, privileges, and franchises of this City, their treachery to the honour and interests of the Crown, and their contempt of the public voice, as conveyed by the largest Corporate Assembly in the Empire.

10. That our Representatives in Parliament be and are hereby instructed to support all measures which have for their object the investigation and reformation of public abuses—the abolition of useless places, pensions, reversions, and superfluous establishments—the relief of the sufferings of the people, by re-opening the channels of commercial intercourse—the punishment of delinquents, however high their stations, and whether as traders in public appointments, or in seats in the Legislature—and, above all, the restoration of a full, equal, and free Representation to the People.

11. That the Sheriffs, attended by Mr. Remembrancer, do forthwith wait upon his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and deliver into his Royal Highness's hand, in the name of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of London, a fair Copy of the foregoing Resolutions, signed by the Town Clerk.

ADDRESS AND PETITION.

To his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the humble and dutiful Address and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of London, in Common Hall assembled.

WE, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Livery of the City of London, in Common Hall assembled, deeply feeling the distressed and calamitous state of the Country, humbly approach your Royal Highness, dutifully to represent those grievances and abuses under which we labour, and of which we have so long and ineffectually complained.

It is nearly a century since the family of your Royal Highness succeeded to the British Throne, under principles and constitutional regulations which happily promised to secure the succession on the only sure basis of thrones—the liberties and affections of subjects.

The history of nations does not afford a better exemplification of the effects of the principles of a free Constitution, than the state of those kingdoms at the close of the reign of the second Monarch of your illustrious House. Public liberty was established and respected—the national character was in consequence exalted at home and abroad—a war for national objects was carried on with unexampled glory—and the true interests of the People had been so wisely consulted and maintained, that the successor to the throne congratulated himself on the prosperous and auspicious circumstances under which he found his kingdom.

How unhappy the reverse! produced by a subsequent system, which generated a petty and disguised warfare on the rights and privileges of the People—which gave to the influence of patronage and corruption the name of Government—which depended for support on venal majorities in both Houses of Parliament—and which polluted the principal authorities of the State, and sacrificed the public weal to despicable intrigues and the cupidity of individuals. Liberty was invaded—the Press, the terror only of bad Governments—was fettered and persecuted—the Country was torn by factions—Corruption raised itself above the Law and Constitution—and the American War and the dismemberation of the Empire, were the consequences

Similar feelings and policy led to an unhappy interference with the affairs of a neighbouring nation, and a War of 20 years, undertaken and continued without any settled or intelligible object, has dissipated the industry—destroyed the commerce—dried up the resources—curtailed the liberties—and nearly worn down the spirit of a brave and loyal People.

Although we have for a series of years, by Petitions to the Throne and to both Houses of Parliament, made earnest representations of our grievances, and fully anticipated the lamentable consequences of perseverance in so corrupt and vitiated a system, yet all our complaints have remained, not only unredressed, but the same pernicious measures are still pursued—the same corrupt influence predominates—the same abuses are continued—and the evils of which we have so frequently complained, are rapidly and fearfully accumulating.

We have seen, on the part of your Royal Highness's Ministers, the same profligate expenditure—the same disregard of the sufferings of the People—a determined resistance to every measure tending to the Reformation and Investigation of Abuses—and the same unbending and bigoted rigour, in withholding from a large mass of our fellow Subjects the due exercise of their civil and political rights.

We have seen the wanton introduction of Foreign Mercenaries in our Army—new and dangerous encroachments on the Liberty of the Press—on the Independence of Juries—on the Right of Petitioning—and on those laws and practices which, since the Revolution, have served as the basis of Religious Liberty.

We have seen our Merchants and Manufacturers involved in bankruptcy and ruin, and tens of thousands of our artizans, who till lately formed the strength of the Country, reduced to beggary and wretchedness, by a new and impolitic system of forced regulations in regard to Commerce.

We have seen an arbitrary and delusive Paper Currency usurp the place of the natural and valid circulation of the precious metals—tokens of base coin substituted for the current coin of the realm—and consequent distrust and uncertainty arise in all our mercantile transactions.

We have seen your Ministers advise appointments to high and responsible stations, which, however in unison with your paternal feelings, were in direct opposition to the declared sense of the nation, and irritating to a People who have shewn no bounds in their concessions to your Royal House.

We have seen another appointment made by the same Ministers, in defiance of votes of the House of Commons, evidently tending to bring your Royal Highness into discredit with the Legislature and the People.

And, as if it had been designed to set at defiance all public feeling, and to give at once a death-blow to all patriotism, confidence, and hope, we have seen the weak and culpable author of the disastrous Expedition to Walcheren restored to place and power.

In fine, we have seen many things done by those Ministers repugnant to the Constitution—oppressive to the People—and disgraceful to the Government; and we have seen nothing effected, or even attempted, towards the Reform of Abuses, the abridgement of Corruption, the curtailment of useless Expenditure, or the amelioration of the condition of the People.

While we witnessed with indignation the preponderance of this disgraceful system, we could not dismiss from our minds the fond recollection of those constitutional principles which your Royal Highness was believed to cherish, which were confirmed by your own declarations; and we were consequently led to hope, that on your unrestricted accession to power, our complaints would have been attended to, and our grievances redressed. That, under your wise and beneficent auspices, we should have recovered some of our lost rights and privileges; and that we should have had the satisfaction to behold in you a Patriot Prince, surrounded by a grateful and happy People.

Sustained by that hope, we found consolation under our accumulated sufferings, in the confidence that at that period we should happily witness a change in the system of domestic Government and in the foreign policy of the Empire, produced by able and enlightened Councils, rendered worthy of your own and your People's confidence by their known enmity to Corruption—by their self-denial in bad times—and by their good faith, courage, and virtue, to effectuate those necessary Reforms upon which depends the safety of the Constitution and the Country.

That period, therefore, was expected with anxiety as the dawn of a new æra; but even as our hopes were great, so our disappointment was excessive, when we learnt—that notwithstanding all the past—notwithstanding those grievances which we have so often set forth—notwithstanding the declared obnoxiousness of those Ministers to yourself and the nation—and notwithstanding their admitted malversations and corruptions—you were pleased to declare you had no predilections to indulge, or resentments to gratify!—Precious words in the mouth of a Prince, in regard to subjects having equal pretensions to public virtue, but inapplicable, it is presumed, to your present Ministers, whose corruptions are as notorious as the sun at noonday—who have evinced a total disregard of all public principles—and whose practices have been chiefly directed to the corruption of Parliament, and their own personal aggrandizement.

At the same time we beg distinctly to disclaim any desire to promote the views, or interests, of any particular party in the State, fully convinced that no change of men can be attended with any beneficial effect, without an entire and radical change of system; that all intrigues, compromises, and combinations, to obtain or retain place and power, are dangerous and delusive, necessarily implying an abandonment of principle, destroying public confidence, and justly exciting a distrust of all public men; and that it is only by a wise, independent, unpensioned Administration, and a free and unpensioned Parliament, that the great interests of the Nation can be upheld.

Feeling, Sir, that the welfare of this great Empire is identified with the true interests of the Throne, we humbly and earnestly pray, that your Royal Highness will dismiss your present evil advisers, and call into the public service such men, and such men only, as stand pledged to your Royal Highness and to the Country to promote those salutary reformations so imperiously required; to destroy that hydra of corruption, which is equally dangerous to Prince and People, domineering over the former, preying upon the latter, and obeying no law but its insatiable appetite; to correct those abuses which have taken root in every department of the Administration of the Government; to accomplish that radical and effectual Reform in the House of Commons, which should make it truly speak the independent and loyal feelings of the People, rather than remain the convenient engine of the sinister views of any Minister for the time being, or the organ of an hateful oligarchy, terrible alike to the Sovereign and the Country; to establish your Throne on a basis of justice in its relation to foreign nations; and to reconcile the ample enjoyment of their civil and religious liberties to your People, with the wholesome exercise of its necessary and legitimate prerogatives of the Crown.

SIR SAMUEL ROMILLY.

BRISTOL, APRIL 4.—In consequence of the invitation given by the friends of Sir Samuel Romilly to him to dine with them at the Assembly Rooms, on Thursday last, he arrived here about two o'clock that day. Upon Sir Samuel Romilly's arriving within a mile of the city, he was met by an immense concourse of the populace with colours of the different trade societies, who insisted upon drawing his carriage to the Bush. When he had reached the Bush, he addressed the populace from the windows, expressing his gratitude for the reception he had met with, and exhorting them to preserve harmony and peace. After the company began to disperse, Sir S. Romilly, attended by his friends, walked to the Assembly Rooms in Prince's-street, followed by a great number of the citizens; 241 sat down to dinner: M. Castle, Esq. was called to the Chair. Upon the health of Sir S. Romilly being given, he rose, and after returning thanks for the honour done him, hailed it as a most fortunate and auspicious circumstance, that preparatory to a general election, likely to take place at a crisis more important than any that is to be found in our history since the Revolution, an example was likely to be set by the City of Bristol, of looking for a representative towards men who could

have no recommendation to favour but their public conduct, and in overlooking all personal favour and private attachment, when in competition with the interests of the nation.—Every man (said Sir S. Romilly) who offers himself as a candidate for popular representation, puts himself as it were upon his trial before his country; he must expect the most severe inquiry into the whole of his past conduct, private as well as public. He must expect to hear the whole truth, and much more than the truth. It is not possible that, in the midst of the rivalship and of the other passions which such occasions excite, calumny should not often be mixed with just accusation. I cannot, however, consider it but as a circumstance highly honourable to this city, and creditable to those to whom I am opposed, and with respect to whom my pretensions may raise obstacles to their attaining the objects of their honourable ambition, that so very little has been objected to me, of which any honest man need be ashamed. Some things however have been objected to me, upon which, if I am not trespassing too long upon your patience, I should be glad to make a few observations. It has been said that I once filled a public office, and that I am desirous of being again in such a situation, and of receiving a salary from the public money. It is true that I had the honour of being appointed his Majesty's Solicitor General; and it is also true that if that office were again offered to me under such circumstances, and I could accept it without swerving in any degree from the line of conduct which I have hitherto pursued; so offered me, that by accepting it, instead of abandoning my principles, I should acquire the means of giving effect to them; it is true that I would accept it, and would receive the honest emoluments belonging to it. I should think that by so doing I was not departing from, but discharging my duty; that I was only putting myself in a situation in which I could be more useful to the country than I can now be; but it is only by an adherence to the principles which I have hitherto professed, that I can be ever useful in any situation. I do not however believe that I shall be put to this test. I have little doubt that I am destined to pass the remainder of my life in privacy; and it is a destination with which I am well contented, for I had rather leave to my children only a name connected with measures which tend to increase the happiness or to assuage the evils of any portion of my fellow-subjects, than the proudest title which the Crown has to bestow, or the amplest possessions which the long enjoyment of the most lucrative office could enable me to acquire. It has been said, I understand, that I cannot undertake to do that business relating to your local interest which is justly expected from the Representatives of Bristol. To this my answer is, that I have said I will undertake it. It has been observed that to do so, I must give up a large portion of that time which is now occupied in the pursuits of my profession; but I have made such sacrifices already to a considerable extent, and I am prepared to make still greater sacrifices in your service. I have seen it also stated that I am a man devoted to a political party. Gentlemen, if my devotion to party is meant the giving up my judgment and voting against my reason and my conviction for measures, because those with whom I generally act, and whose principles I approve, have adopted them, I wholly deny the charge; and I appeal to my conduct in Parliament for my defence; but if by attachment to party means only an adherence to those whose public principles I wholly approve, and in whose hands, I, in my conscience, believe the Government can be most safely entrusted, to that charge I have no defence to make. I reflect with satisfaction on my connection with that Administration, of which one of the principal members was that illustrious statesman, that strenuous assertor of the cause of religious and civil liberty, the late and ever to be lamented Mr. Fox. On my connexion with that Administration, which was not exempt from errors undoubtedly, but which carried the two measures which most tended to improve the condition of mankind, of any that have taken place in the course of the present reign—the Abolition of the Slave Trade, and the alteration of enlisting Soldiers for a limited period, instead of enlisting them for life, thus preserving to those armed citizens an interest in the blessings of our Constitution, and suspending only, not taking away from them, the Trial by Jury and the writ of *Habeas Corpus*; it is with satisfaction too that I reflect upon the union of my name with that of those distinguished statesmen who are still preserved to us. That I had an office under the Administration of which they were the chiefs—that I have enjoyed their friendships in retirement,—and that when they are excluded from office, because they will not abandon their principles, I have the honour to be comprehended in that exclusion, are to me matters of pride and exultation.—I have seen other things objected to me in publications, which perhaps are hardly worth noticing. I have seen it objected that I voted for measures which I did not and could not vote upon, because they were carried before I had a seat in Parliament. I have heard it made a matter of reproach to me, that I was the author of a bill which has put an end to arrests upon mesne process for debts of less amount than 15*l*. That measure was not proposed by me; it originated in the House of Lords; it passed the Commons without a single observation; and no vote was ever come to upon it: but I claim no merit for this; I ought to add, that if it ever had come to a vote, I certainly should have voted for it.—There is another matter which perhaps does not deserve to be mentioned, and yet I should be glad to say a few words upon it. It has been published in this city that I am a foreigner, and that if you elect me you will send a foreigner to represent you in a British Parliament. Gentlemen, I was born and educated, and have passed my whole life in England, with the exception of a short interval which was spent in visiting foreign countries. My father too was born and educated in England, and spent his whole life in it. My grandfather, it is true, was not an Englishman by birth, but he was an Englishman by choice. He was born the heir to a considerable landed estate at Montpellier, in the South of France. His ancestors had early imbibed and adopted the principles and doctrines of the reformed religion, and he had been educated himself in that religious faith. He had the misfortune to live soon after the time when the edict of Nantes, the great toleration act of the Protestants of France, was revoked by Lewis the 14th, and he found himself exposed to all the vexations and persecutions of a bigotted and tyrannical government, for worshipping God in the manner which he believed was most acceptable to him. He determined to free himself from this bondage; he abandoned his property, he tore himself from his connexions, and sought an asylum in this land of liberty, where he had to support himself only by his own exertions. He embarked himself in trade, he educated his sons to useful trades, and he was contented at his death to leave them, instead of his original patrimony, no other inheritance than the habits of industry he had given them, the example of his own virtuous life, an hereditary detestation of tyranny and injustice, and an ardent zeal in the cause of civil and religious freedom. To him I owe it, among other inestimable blessings, that I am an Englishman. Gentlemen, this is my origin, I trust that I need not blush to own it.—Gentlemen, I am sorry to have so long detained you; I can but again return you my thanks: that I may be what you already too indulgently believe me to be, is the first wish of my heart, and shall be the unremitted study of my life."

The next toast given was—"The Right Honourable George Tierney."

Mr. PEACH read a letter from Mr. Tierney, regretting his disappointment in not being able to pay his personal respects to the Electors of Bristol on this memorable occasion.

"The Law of England, may its justice always be tempered with mercy."

Sir SAMUEL ROMILLY said, he greatly regretted that he had not an earlier acquaintance with the Gentleman whose health he was about to propose, he meant "Michael Castle, Esq." which was drank with much warmth.

Mr. CASTLE returned thanks.

"Success to Trade and Commerce."

"The cause of Religious Liberty throughout the World."

"The Rev. Dr. Parr."

Dr. PARR addressed the meeting, wishing success to their exertions in favour of Sir Samuel Romilly, and anxiously hoping that their example would have an extensive and auspicious

influence upon the determinations and measures of other electors in other places.

Several other patriotic toasts and sentiments were drank, and addresses made from the Rev. Mr. Rowe, Rev. Mr. Brittan, Mr. Austin of Wootten-under-edge, and C. A. Elton, Esq.—The evening was spent in great conviviality and good order. The speech of Sir S. Romilly was received throughout with unbounded applause, particularly the part relating to his family. The company broke up at eleven o'clock.

POLICE REPORT.

The Report of the Committee of the House of Commons on the Nightly Watch and Police of the Metropolis has been printed.

The Committee first directed their enquiries to the state of the Nightly Watch, conceiving this branch of the service, in consequence of late occurrences, to be pressed upon their attention with more urgency than any other. Had they found the defects in this part of our Police to have been such as to have demanded the immediate interposition of the Legislature, they would have made an early report; but they observed, that the apprehensions which had been excited had produced such a degree of activity and vigilance in many parishes and districts, and such a conviction that the former means of security were insufficient, that all immediate alarm on this head had been in a great measure removed. In some parishes, the inhabitants have taken upon themselves the duties of superintendents of the Nightly Watch—and such a system has been so effectual, that the Committee think it necessary only to recommend legislative measures, to give an uniformity and permanence to it.

No immediate danger being to be apprehended, the Committee proceed to a more detailed and comprehensive view of the circumstances influencing and affecting the state of the Metropolis as to its Police.

The Metropolis is divided into three parts. The City of London, City of Westminster, and the several Parishes which are neither within the City of London nor the City of Westminster.

The City of London is governed by particular Charters and Statutes—it has its system of Watch and Ward, and the Marshals of the City with their assistants, visit nightly the different wards, take care that the Constables do their duty—make morning reports to the Lord Mayor, and notice any deficiences or neglect.

The City of Westminster never having been incorporated, has not the same means, or the same gradation of its Public Officers. But powers are given by 27th of Elizabeth to the Dean and Chapter, and to the High Steward, to make regulations. Lord Burleigh, the first High Steward, made regulations, and divided the City into twelve Wards. The 29th of George II. enlarges that of Elizabeth, and directs the High Constable to obey the High Steward, and the Petty Constables the High Constable. The 14th George III. prescribes the duties of Constables, &c. more particularly, and referring to the ancient statute of Watch and Ward, recognises the principle, that the protection of every district is compulsory on the inhabitants. But, upon the whole, no uniform system prevails. The 14th George III. has been little known; it might be amended, and higher rates allowed to defray the expence of an increase of the numbers or wages of persons in the Nightly Watch. The Committee recommend strongly that the Watch be relieved once at least in the night. But the main improvement will be to have a superintending power over the persons appointed by parochial authorities, in cases of misconduct or neglect.

The Committee then touch upon the Police Officers, which they consider to be defective, inasmuch as they have not any superintendance whatever in matters of preventative and parochial Police. They merely constitute the first stage in the administration of criminal jurisprudence, and it seems extraordinary that in such a metropolis as London there should be no office in which information is collected, from which intelligence can be obtained as to the state of the Police. But great advantages might be derived from making these Police Offices points to which information might be habitually communicated, and daily reports made from the parishes within the district.

Some of the principal Police Officers to go round according to some rotation, and to visit the watch-houses, and report upon the Constables, Patroles and Watchmen. The High Constable within the several divisions occasionally to make similar visits. Parochial authorities to meet and make more detailed rules for the Constables and Watchmen. A great mass of information being thus collected at each respective Police Office, it ought to be accumulated at some central point, in order to have a general view of the Police, and to be able, from the comparison of the different facts, to devise means for the prevention of crimes, or for the detection of criminals.

Bow-street is recommended as the proper central point; and some person to be appointed to compare and digest the information, for the purpose of communicating it to the Bow-street Magistrates, and the Home Secretary of State.

The Thames Police Office to have additional funds and to have more boats applicable to that part of the river above London-bridge.

Greenwich requires another Police Office on that side of the river, but the Thames Police Office is to be removed to the Surrey side for that purpose.

The 32d George III. is stated as defective, because it does not authorize Police Officers to apprehend pick-pockets and reputed thieves, but under certain circumstances. If further powers were given, the apprehension of these offenders would be greatly facilitated, but the Committee do not see how the powers already given could be enlarged consistently with the general liberty of the subject. It seems desirable that the 51. George III. should be amended, doubts having arisen on the construction of that and the 32. George III. whether they extend to the City, properly so called, which is stated to be at present the resort of many reputed thieves.

It is difficult to prosecute to conviction receivers of stolen goods. To check this evil, the law respecting search warrants to be amended, and to be put in force by night as well as by day.

Hackney coaches, the plates of which are often taken off when stolen property is conveyed, shall have the proper number painted on the pannel of the coach.

Magistrates to have further means of rewarding Police Officers, whose reward should then not depend upon or grow out of the conviction of any offender.

Increasing expence of criminal prosecutions is a source of the increase of crimes. It is therefore suggested, whether the expences to a limited extent might not be defrayed out of the parish rates.

There is a great incongruity in the system for governing the Metropolis, owing to the Magistrates of the City of London not being able to pursue by their warrants beyond the local limits of the City goods stolen within the limits of the City. The Committee conceive that the warrant of the City Magistrates should operate without being backed by any other Magistrate within a circle of five miles of the Royal Exchange, and the warrants of County Magistrates within five miles of the Royal Exchange should operate within the local limits of the City without being backed by the City Magistrates.

There are many other parts connected with the subject of Police; periods for which offenders are confined, places where they are confined, and the manner of their being returned upon the community, &c. but these have been referred to other Committees, and the Committee, therefore, have confined themselves to those leading principles of superintendance and controul, and to that system of provident vigilance, which by watching assiduously over the interests of the community may maintain without interruption its good order and security.

LAW.

COURT OF KING's BENCH.

Wednesday, April 8.

KESHITT *v.* SWIFT.

The plaintiff in this action sought to recover from the defendant, who is a Lottery Office Keeper in London, the one-half of the proceeds of a ticket in one of the late Lotteries, No. 29, the *half* of which ticket the defendant had undertaken to put-

chase for the plaintiff. The ticket of this number was drawn a prize of 20,000*l.*; but the defendant failed to fulfil his part of the contract, by delivering to the plaintiff the one-half of the ticket, which would have entitled him to 10,000*l.* To recover a compensation for this breach of contract the present action was brought. The plaintiff had formerly filed a Bill of Discovery in the Court of Chancery, for the purpose of ascertaining, from the answer of the defendant himself, the real nature of the undertaking by him in regard to the half of the ticket in question. In his answer to this bill, the defendant admitted that he had undertaken to purchase for the plaintiff the half of the ticket in question, and that he had accordingly used every endeavour to procure it, but had been disappointed in consequence of the occurrence of circumstances over which he had no controul, and which of course he could not prevent. These circumstances were enumerated in the defendant's answer.

The Bill and Answer in Chancery were put in and read.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH observed, that the defendant having undertaken to purchase for the plaintiff the one-half of the ticket pointed out, was bound to fulfill that undertaking; and if the plaintiff could shew that he had from culpable neglect, or even from inattention, failed to do so, the defendant must be liable. Here, however, it appeared, that the defendant had used all due diligence to procure the number in question, but had been disappointed of obtaining it, by circumstances which he could not foresee or prevent.

The plaintiff was accordingly—Nonsuited.

INGRAM *v.* DENYS, ESQ.

This was an action brought by an Upholsterer in Sloane-square, against a Gentleman of fortune, who married a sister of Lord Pomfret, and resided in Suffolk, to recover the sum of 554*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.* disputed as a surcharge upon the bill for furnishing the Defendant's house. The amount of the whole bill was 2414*l.* which had been reduced by payments on account to 1354*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*; and 800*l.* more having been paid into Court. The principal debateable article was the charge of 70*l.* for a bed.

Mr. GARROW observed, that many persons might laugh at the man who could make a charge, in their opinion, so enormous. He would shew that, however, to be a foolish laugh. It was true, were he asked, whether he would prefer the plain bed in which he nightly reposed, and in which his father had reposed before him, to the fine bed which had been made for the defendant, he would certainly say, "Give me my father's old bed." But that had nothing at all to do with the choice of persons of fine taste and large fortunes. He (Mr. Garrow) wanted no dragons to ornament his bed, nor did he wish to have any cherubim carved about it. When he retired from attending on his Lordship and on his professional duties, he was very glad, without admiring the beauty of his bed, to retire to rest as soon as possible. But the defendant must have doves, eagles, and griffins surrounding him, to amuse his fancy. The modern fitter-up of a house, and the upholsterer of former days, were as different as any two things in nature. Formerly, when a new-married couple wished to furnish their house, if they did not go absolutely to Moorfields, they, at all events, applied to some sober, steady Citizen, as plain as the goods he furnished; but now, the application was made to some person of known character, not merely as a cabinet-maker, but as a man of taste. He began his observations like a surveyor, measuring every room and window in the house. He, in his turn, must employ some person to make drawings of the different articles of furniture, and they were made to suit the taste of the buyer, either in the Grecian, Roman, Gothic, or Egyptian model. The latter was so prevalent, that they could not now sit down except on the back of a camel, which took a kneeling position for that purpose, or of a sphinx, or an elephant. Whose fault was this? Certainly not that of the furnisher, but of the person who gave the order, and who had a right to pay for such luxuries. The Jury might form some idea of the expense of the bed, when he read the description to them—"An elegant state bedstead, on French castors; lath bottom, with a frame, deep head and foot; broad French stuffing, all hair in fine canvas; a dome ester, piped, stuffed with hair, fine canvas; carved bronze figures at the foot; campo pedestal; set of fine burnished gold flying dragons; a cornice with cherubim and doves, in clouds, and burnished gold eagles; flying dragons to support the arms of Mr. Denys; or-molu ox-heads surmounting the pillars; the drapery orauge satin, lined with blue sarsenet; in the centre of the domes inside, a sun with rays."—Mr. GARROW observed, that for his part, he wished to keep the rays of the sun out of his bed until it was time for him to rise in the morning.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH—"Was this project of a bed shewn to the defendant? Was he aware that the doves and eagles formed such a comfortable society?"

Mr. GARROW—"He saw the plans, my Lord."

Lord ELLENBOROUGH—"Are there any persons going about the streets of London who have purchased any of these 70*l.* beds?"

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—"I do not think there are, my Lord—they are more likely to be found in the custody of keepers."

Lord ELLENBOROUGH said, that tradesmen were in some degree the guardians of our safety, as to orders given them; and this bed was charged at above three times the price of any one which the plaintiff ever sold.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL repeated his readiness to leave the case to any gentleman to say what the plaintiff ought to have, supposing every article was ordered.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH never heard of such a bed to be slept upon. There was in the neighbourhood of the place in which the Court sat (at the Mansion-house), a bed which cost 2000*l.* but that was a public thing, which ought not to govern the bed of any private person.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he had once travelled many miles to see a bed which was equally famous.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH—"You allude to the capacious bed at Ware."

Mr. GARROW said, that his client had not been, till now, aware that the reference would be binding, and that he would have a verdict for its amount. He was now willing to consent to it; and Mr. Bolland was chosen as the referee.

OLD BAILEY.

On Monday, *Robert Towers* was indicted for endeavouring to seduce, entice, and corrupt Samuel Davis, a turnkey, in the employ of Mr. Newman, Keeper of the Jail of Newgate, to favour the escape from prison of the late unfortunate Mr. Geo. Skeene.

Samuel Davis proved that the prisoner invited him, about a fortnight after Mr. Skeene's being committed to their custody, to drink with him. They went to the New Inn. The defendant asked him what family he had; and being informed that he had a wife and three children, said, that if he would do him a favour, he would have it in his power to make them all comfortable. The witness asked, of what nature that favour was, and was informed that it regarded Mr. Skeene. Supposing that it related to his accommodation in prison, the witness told the defendant that he should have every accommodation consistent with the rules of the House. The defendant, however, on their way to the prison, gave the witness clearly to understand, that he stipulated for nothing short of Mr. Skeene's escape; informing him, that if he would oblige him by favouring it, his reward should be equal to his most sanguine expectations; that it should be paid, not in Bank notes, but in gold, and should be so ample, as would put him and his family above the necessity of his continuing a turnkey. This evidence was confirmed by Mr. Newman, and by Mr. Hardy, Mr. Newman's confidential clerk, to whom Davis immediately communicated the attempt made upon his integrity. Mr. Newman also swore, that when the defendant next, after the conversation alluded to, called on Mr. Skeene, he (Mr. Newman) called the defendant into a private room, and confronted him with Davis; the defendant did not deny the charge, but contented himself with stating, that he had offered Davis no specific sum.

Mr. ALLEY, Counsel for the defendant, contended that there were no words on the face of the indictment to support the present charge. There must be a specific criminal act alleged and set forth, in intelligible language, on the face of the indictment. Here the crime charged, was the endeavouring, "by every means in the defendant's power," to seduce, &c. Now it might so happen, that ALL the means in the defendant's power, though exerted by him to the utmost, might not be sufficient to constitute a charge of felony, in which case there would not be on the face of the indictment such a charge as would support it. Such being the case, and there being here no specific words which necessarily inferred criminality, the indictment, he submitted, must fall to the ground. The crime imputed to the person whose liberation the defendant was undoubtedly proved to have endeavoured to procure, was not one of those offences which were ranked among what are termed *mala in se*—it was not an offence by the law of God. At this moment, among the nations of the Continent, there were several where it was not regarded as an offence ranking among the higher class of crimes; and even in this country it was not till the last reign that it was made a capital felony. The defendant therefore might, however erroneously, have supposed that in promoting the escape of such a man as Mr. Skeene, he was not guilty of an offence at all to be compared with the offence of one who set loose upon the public a murderer, or a midnight robber. The defendant, too, he was informed, was a relation of the unfortunate gentleman whose escape he had attempted to favour—a gentleman, except in the unfortunate instance which had occasioned his commitment, of the most unexceptionable character, and remarkable only for his benevolence and humanity. Such a character could not have failed to be fully appreciated, and his faults to be viewed with a lenient eye, by the defendant, who had been a sailor, and who possessed so truly a benevolent heart, that he had twice thrown himself into the ocean, while the ship in which he was, was under weigh, and had, on each occasion, been successful in saving the life of a fellow creature with whom he was not connected.

The defendant received an excellent character from respectable witnesses.

The RECORDER expressed it as his opinion, that there was nothing in the objection to the wording of the indictment, which sufficiently pointed out an offence, and which offence had been clearly proved in evidence. As to the situation of Mr. Skeene, his rank and prospects in life, and the powerful friends he had —they were all aggravations of his guilt, and of the offence of the present defendant, who would have favoured his escape from public justice. What would have been said of the law of this country, the proudest boast of which was, that it took equal cognizance of the rich and of the poor, if this powerful and richly-allied man had been suffered to escape, while a poor man, for the same offence, incurred certain death.—The Jury found the defendant *guilty*.

The RECORDER declared the sentence of the Court to be, that the defendant do pay a fine of 50*l.*; be imprisoned in the Jail of Newgate for twelve calendar months, and do, at the expiration of that time, find sureties to keep the peace for one year.

The defendant addressed the Court, begging that they would have the goodness to revise their sentence, and to banish him at once to Botany Bay. It had been truly said, that no man, however pure his principles, could expect, on his return from confinement for any length of time in a common prison, to be an object of trust or confidence. For his own part, he was satisfied he could not long exist among such people as he had seen in Newgate. As to the fine, though he was a poor man, and wrought hard for what little he possessed, which was all earned by his own ten fingers, that he considered, comparatively speaking, as of no moment.

The RECORDER informed the defendant that the Court had already considered the case in all its bearings, and deemed the sentence which had been pronounced the lightest of which the case would admit, not in relation to the defendant, whose situation they deplored, but as holding out an example to others to beware of such attempts.

Mr. ALLEY, on reckoning the Jury, observed that they consisted of thirteen, whereas twelve is the legal and established number.—On this ground he submitted, that the verdict was void.

The RECORDER said, the prisoner had the thirteenth in addition. One too few would have been fatal to the verdict, but one too many did not invalidate it.

Mr. Newman gave directions, the moment the defendant was carried to prison, that he should be accommodated on the State-side, in the manner most agreeable to himself.

POLICE.

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

A man named *Hardinge*, who resides in Charles-street, Drury-lane, and a woman who passed for his wife, but who called herself *Mary Ann Derry*, were charged with beating and treating with various acts of cruelty Hardinge's daughter, a child, seven or eight years old, and also withholding from her necessary food. The prosecution had been laudably instituted by the Parish Officers of St. Giles's, from the representations of many respectable inhabitants of the neighbourhood where Hardinge lived. The testimony adduced on the occasion went to prove that the neighbourhood had been much disturbed by the moanings and shrieks of the child, and that the woman had beat her unmercifully, and the landlord of the house proved the child having been shut up for hours without food. The child, who appeared in a deplorably emaciated state, had one arm tied up, which she had been deprived the use of, from the barbarity of the woman prisoner. On its being ascertained that the woman was not married to Hardinge, he was sworn to give evidence against her; but he cloaked as much as possible her conduct. She had borne him several children, but the sufferer was by a wife who is dead. The woman was committed for bail, and the child was taken under the protection of the Parish Officers.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

A young woman, named Annis Reeves, not more than 18 years of age, was found dead in her bed on Wednesday morning, in St. George's-place, Oxford-street, in consequence of taking arsenic. This unfortunate young girl, who had left her friends in Yorkshire but a few weeks, had expressed her determination to rid herself of life to a female friend on Sunday last, and she had been observed several days much dejected.—She left her home with an officer, since gone to Portugal, and had thrown herself on the town for support.

MARRIAGES.

A few days ago, James Kenny, Esq. to Mrs. Holcroft, of Camden-street, relict of Thomas Holcroft, Esq.

At Newark, Nottinghamshire, George Reed, Esq. of Clerkenwell, to Elizabeth, only surviving daughter of the late Mr. Jonas Lawton, of that place.

DEATHS.

On Tuesday se'nnight, at Ealing, in her 80th year, Mrs. Bumby. In the former part of her life she acted in the capacity of a school-mistress, till the age of 50, at which time she married; and on the day of her marriage, immediately after coming from church, a mental derangement took place, from which she never wholly recovered. What is very remarkable, a horn sprung, within the last few years, from one side of her forehead, and grew in a crooked form to the length of nearly six inches. Another also made its appearance, but owing, it is supposed, to her frequent rubbing it, its growth was stopped.—*Stamford News.*

At Cahirmurphy, county Clare, Cornelius Madigan, aged 117 years.

At Abingdon, county Limerick, Thomas O'Brien, aged 110 years.

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